

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY HORVATH
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February 28, 2023

Honoring the Legacy of P-22

P-22, the 22nd mountain lion tracked in a National Park Service study, was a Los Angeles icon. He journeyed east from his birthplace in the Santa Monica Mountains, traveled across the 405 and 101 freeways, and took up residence in Griffith Park over a decade ago. To honor P-22's life and the indelible mark he left on our County, we will enshrine his legacy in policy that will protect our region's mountain lions and wildlife for generations to come.

P-22 was euthanized in December after sustaining serious injuries as a result of being hit by a car. Among other things, he was a symbol of the struggle that wildlife often face trying to live alongside humans in a sprawling urban landscape. Recent research shows that cars are killing California mountain lions faster than they can reproduce. Wildlife crossings are one strategy to help prevent future death and injuries to wildlife trying to cross Los Angeles freeways, as well as mitigate genetic isolation. The Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, a project backed by the California Department

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of Transportation and the National Wildlife Federation, among others, is currently under construction. It will span the 101 Freeway in Agoura Hills, providing a critical route to save an isolated population of mountain lions in the area from extinction. Wildlife crossings would protect the safety of humans and animals alike in many highly trafficked corridors across the County and state.

Another major threat that mountain lions in the region face is accidental poisoning. In 2014, blood tests from P-22 showed that he had been exposed to anticoagulant rodenticide, or rat poison. This poison works its way up the food chain and becomes increasingly lethal as the dose accumulates in larger animals. The toxins found in P-22's blood were diphacinone and chlorophacinone, two first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (FGARs). While AB 1788, signed by Governor Newsom in 2020, banned the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide (SGARs), FGARs are not prohibited. A ban on FGARs would address one of the other major factors driving the region's mountain lions towards extinction.

On February 3rd, 2023, Representatives Adam Schiff, Ted Lieu, and Julia Brownley sent a letter to the federal Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee requesting a postage stamp in honor of P-22. A stamp would be a fitting complementing tribute to P-22's life and legacy and raise awareness nationwide for wildlife conservation efforts.

In life and in death, P-22 held cultural significance to indigenous peoples of the region. The Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, where P-22 was brought after his death, is in conversation with indigenous representatives about how best to honor his remains.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office - Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to:

1. Advocate in support of state and federal funding for wildlife crossings;
2. Advocate in support of a state ban on first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides;
3. Send a five-signature letter to the United States Postal Service (USPS) Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, with a copy to the USPS Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, in support of Representatives Adam Schiff, Ted Lieu and Julia Brownley's request to have P-22 honored with a postage stamp.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office to:

1. Work with all County departments to ban the use of first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (FGARs) on all County owned and managed properties;
2. Explore County levers to phase out the use of FGARs throughout the unincorporated County;
3. Support Countywide education efforts on the dangers posed by FGARs;
4. Coordinate with cities and relevant agency partners on creating a comprehensive strategy for stopping the use of FGARs on all publicly managed lands.

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